

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6
INCIDENT NO. 2003- 070
DATE: July 24, 2003 Time: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Beginning June 21, severe thunderstorms with heavy rain, hail, and high winds up to 116 miles per hour (mph), have continued moved through portions of North Dakota.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: In Sheridan County, a juvenile was injured by flying debris during a July 13 storm. He was treated and released by staff at a local hospital.
3. DAMAGES: The following is a summary of storm damages that occurred since July 13 as reported by County Emergency Managers.

Cass County:

County officials report damage estimates to seven Minnkota Electric Power Cooperative high voltage power line structures at \$400,000. The damage resulted from high winds and severe thunderstorms that occurred on July 13. Clean-up and final costs associated with the storm are still being determined.

Cass County Rural Electric Cooperative reported that 23 electrical structures were damaged to the point of needing replacement, up from the initially reported 16 structures. Cost estimates have yet to be completed.

Officials also reported extensive damage was sustained to shelter belts and residential tree rows. Nearly all residents in the cities of Arthur, Ayr, Buffalo, Gardner and Tower City sustained clean up and debris removal costs.

County officials report that insurance companies have advised residents funds will not be available for tree debris removal unless the tree actually struck the residential structure. Private contractors estimate clean-up costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 range per clean-up project.

Cavalier County

County officials reported storms with high wind, rain and damaging hail passed through rural areas surrounding Langdon and Nekoma on July 19 causing damage to both crops and buildings. One Langdon area farmer reported a crop loss of 100 percent. Reports from rural Langdon and Nekoma indicated softball-size hail and 0.22 inches of rain in a 20-minute time period. Initial damage assessments are being conducted. One insurance company reported crop, building and vehicles losses in excess of \$4 million.

Dickey County

Agricultural officials reported that a July 20 storm with hail and wind speeds of up to 116 mph damaged 46,080 acres of cropland. Crop losses ranged from 20 to 50 percent; approximately 50 farms were affected. Damage also occurred to 10 farm buildings and two pieces of machinery. Additionally, three head of livestock were reported killed due to storm activity.

Additionally, the county received damages resulting from high winds and hail during a July 3-4 storm. Winds toppled two 150,000-bushel grain bins and damaged a third at the Monango grain terminal. In Fullerton, four 50,000-bushel grain bins were toppled and two others destroyed. Hail damaged crops in five townships covering 86,854 acres and affecting 50 farms. One barn was destroyed and damage was sustained to two tractors and a loader.

Divide County

High winds and up to golf ball-size hail on July 13 caused damage to 23,500 acres, impacting 110 farms. Crop loss ranged from 20 to 50 percent. Five farm dwellings and service buildings sustained damages as well as ten pieces of farm equipment. Up to two inches of rain fell.

LaMoure County

County officials reported numerous trees downed throughout the county due to high winds associated with storms on July 19. In the city of Dickey, nearly every business or building with north facing windows reported damage.

McLean County:

County officials reported that on July 13 portions of the county received high winds up to 70 mph accompanied by heavy rain and hail. Power lines were downed in the Washburn and Underwood areas. One of the downed powerlines near Washburn caused a grass fire that consumed approximately five acres of pasture. Several boats, ramps, jet skis and other property were reported damaged at Brush Lake.

Sargent County

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials reported crop losses of up to 100 percent occurred when a storm with hail, heavy rain and winds ranging from 60 to 100 mph pushed through on July 20. Approximately 87,000 acres of crop and grasslands were damaged, affecting 65 farms. Five grain bins were destroyed, and 20 farm service buildings and 10 irrigation pivots were damaged. The Crete Elevator received wind damage to three empty and one partially full grain bins.

Sheridan County:

On the evening of July 13, severe thunderstorms with heavy rain and pea-size hail accompanied by high winds moved through portions of Sheridan County. County officials reported one barn and part of a grain elevator were destroyed in the town of Pickardville. An empty grain bin was lifted and blown across N.D. Highway 200. Pickardville and the surrounding rural areas were temporarily without power due to lines being blown down by wind and flying debris. A rural electric cooperative worked into the night restoring power to the residences affected by the outage.

Stutsman County

In the early morning of July 20, at least four individual thunderstorms passed through Stutsman County with the cities of Buchanan, Cleveland and Windsor reporting golf ball-size hail. Reports indicated golf ball-size hail fell for approximately 15 minutes with accumulations of three to four inches on the ground. In addition, 1.75 inches of rain fell over the area. Damage was sustained to crops, buildings, vehicles, and farm equipment in the path of the storm. The city of Jamestown received 0.40 inches of rain and pea-size hail.

Trails County:

County officials reported rain and winds of up to 70 mph in Mayville that uprooted several trees on July 13. In Hillsboro, winds blew down the side of a new building under construction. Crops throughout the county were also damaged due to the winds and excessive rain.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Jamestown Amateur Radio Club members assisted with weather spotter activities. Local radio stations kept the public informed.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven on July 24 requested President Bush issue a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of severe summer storms and high winds on June 24 – 25 in Barnes and Cass Counties. He specifically requested Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation. The Governor issued an Emergency Declaration on July 23. On July 18, the Governor requested a joint Federal, State and local survey of the damaged areas. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to rural electric cooperatives (RECs) of Cass County Electric and Minnkota Power. A preliminary damage assessment indicated the cooperatives sustained more than \$1.5 million in damages. The Governor designated Doug Friez, State Director of the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer.

On July 21, the Cass County Commission issued an emergency declaration. Barnes County Commissioners signed an emergency declaration on July 15. These declarations were due to the severe amount of damages sustained by the counties' rural electrical delivery system on June 24 and 25.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Several Cass County Electric and Minnkota Electric crews are still working in Cass County. Insurance Storm Claims processing crews were responding to affected areas.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director